



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 September 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Transportation Security Administration announced that it is adjusting its total ban on liquids, gels, and aerosols effective Tuesday, September 26; travelers will be allowed to carry travel-size toiletries and may take items, including beverages, purchased in the secure, boarding area on-board the aircraft. (See item [11](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security announced on Monday, September 25, that grants are being distributed to ports, transit, and intercity bus systems to strengthen the nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. (See item [17](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security will provide money to make sure hazard-warning radios are in all 97,000 public schools; the radios are activated with a broadcast signal that automatically announces a potential hazard such as terrorism, abducted children, and derailed trains carrying toxic materials. (See item [30](#))

## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump***

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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## **Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

*September 22, Fort Worth Star–Telegram (TX)* — **Power grid operators propose service–interruption system.** The operators of Texas' power grid warned Thursday, September 21, that the state faces tight electricity supplies in the next two years and proposed a service–interruption system for commercial users to prevent rolling blackouts in residential neighborhoods during any shortages beginning next year. Under the proposal, TXU Energy and its competitors would ask large commercial users to agree to have their electricity service interrupted temporarily during peak load periods, similar to programs long employed by gas utilities during winter storms. Residences would not face interruptions. The service would be a first for Texas, which has boasted healthy electricity reserves. But those margins are thinning as power plant construction has nearly stopped while demand still grows. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas forecasts that next year and in 2008, the surplus over peak loads will drop below 12.5 percent — the minimum for adequate supply. Projections show that the reserve margin will all but disappear beginning in 2010 if more generators are not built.

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/centers/news/daily/article.cfm?\\_aid=7190681](http://www.energycentral.com/centers/news/daily/article.cfm?_aid=7190681)

2. *September 21, Government Computer News* — **Cybersecurity at DOE still lags: IG.** The Department of Energy (DOE) continues to struggle with information security and many of its weaknesses are the same as in past years, according to a new report by the department's inspector general (IG). Even though DOE has undertaken several actions to improve its cybersecurity posture, "we continued to observe deficiencies that exposed its critical systems to an increased risk of compromise," according to Gregory Friedman, the inspector general. "In several respects, these findings parallel those reported in 2005." While the IG's report did not include any information regarding specific weaknesses or critiques of component agencies' practices, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has come under fire recently for failure to manage the disposition of old computer equipment. The NNSA also came under fire in August when it became known that the agency had suffered a theft of employees' information in June 2004. The theft wasn't discovered for more than a year, and officials did not report the loss for almost a year after that.

Report: [http://www.ig.energy.gov/documents/IG-0738\(1\).pdf](http://www.ig.energy.gov/documents/IG-0738(1).pdf)

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1\\_no1/42068-1.html?topic=security](http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/42068-1.html?topic=security)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

3. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Alabama poultry plant fire prompts evacuations due to hazardous fumes.** A fire destroyed the Tyson Foods poultry processing plant at Heflin, AL, Saturday, September 23, forcing a halt to production. The blaze was battled from until early Sunday morning, September 24. Some nearby homes were evacuated because of hazardous fumes. Only maintenance employees work at the plant on weekends.

Source: [http://www.wkrg.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WKRG%2FMGArticle%2FKRG\\_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149190805896&path=%21news%21local](http://www.wkrg.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WKRG%2FMGArticle%2FKRG_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149190805896&path=%21news%21local)

4. *September 24, KCRA Channel (CA)* — **Area around California fertilizer plant fire re–opened.** The California Highway Patrol Sunday, September 24, lifted an evacuation order around a fire at a fertilizer manufacturing plant near Fairfield, CA. Two homes and about 15 businesses were evacuated Friday because of fears of a possible propane tank explosion at the

plant. A perimeter was maintained around the EB Stone & Son Inc. plant itself as the fire continued to burn. Suisun City Fire Chief Mike O'Brien said the fire was fueled by piles of organic material such as peat moss at the plant.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14991475/>

5. *September 22, Arizona Daily Star* — **Magnesium fire shuts down traffic in Arizona.** A magnesium fire at a South Side, AZ, recycling business ignited propane tanks, tying dozens of firefighters up for hours Thursday, September 21. The fire probably started at Desert Metals Recycling when a portable propane tank fell, breaking off a valve and a spark ignited the escaping gas. The fire shut down traffic in parts of the industrial area just east of Kino Hospital and south of Ajo Way until midafternoon.

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/147814>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

6. *September 25, Aviation Now* — **Defense spending bill to provide two JSFs, Zumwalts.** Production of two Joint Strike Fighters (JSF) — three shy of the five requested by the Bush administration — will be appropriated for fiscal 2007, according to a congressional compromise for defense spending that also fulfilled the White House's request for dual lead DDG-1000 Zumwalt-class destroyers and included other contentious decisions. The FY '07 defense spending agreement between House and Senate appropriators, reached late last week, also adds \$340 million — the Senate's mark, and higher than the House's — to keep alive the JSF's alternative engine effort. The congressional deal further directs the Department of Defense to include alternative-engine funding in the FY '08 budget request, likely adding to proponents' fears that funding the program will be that much more difficult as budgets tighten. JSF research and development is funded at \$4.3 billion. The conference agreement must be ratified by both chambers, which is expected this week.

Source: [http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel\\_aerospacedaily\\_story.jsp?id=news/ZUM09256.xml](http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/ZUM09256.xml)

7. *September 24, Aviation Now* — **U.S. Air Force's Moseley proposes cutting ops to pay for acquisition.** The U.S. Air Force is planning to reduce funding for pilot training and construction around the globe, although Chief of Staff General T. Michael Moseley says he hopes to keep procurement and research accounts intact as the Pentagon builds its Fiscal 2008 budget. The Air Force trimmed \$12 billion from its top line in the Fiscal 2008 spending plan, which was turned over to senior Pentagon civilian leaders for review last month. Those senior political appointees demanded reductions from each service. Their budgets are being impacted by the growing weight of war costs in Afghanistan and Iraq, which amount to \$10 billion per month. And, with mounting concern about Iran's nuclear ambitions, continued infighting among factions in Iraq and a resurgence in offensive activities from the Taliban in Afghanistan, military leaders do not see relief from these demands any time soon. The Air Force's strategy in recent years to keep afloat its procurement and research — what Pentagon officials call investment accounts—has been to reduce manpower, passing the savings on. Now the impact will be felt in the operations and maintenance accounts, which pay for pilots to execute proficiency flights and continue to hone their skills. Likewise, facilities upgrades will be

delayed or cancelled.

Source: [http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel\\_awst\\_story.jsp?id=news/aw092506p2.xml](http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_awst_story.jsp?id=news/aw092506p2.xml)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *September 25, Reuters* — **Criminals flock to the Internet, survey finds.** Criminals are increasingly trying to trick citizens into giving them their bank account details, according to a survey published on Monday, September 25, which showed such phishing attempts almost doubled in the first six months. Over 157,000 unique phishing messages were sent out around the world in the first half of 2006, an increase of 81 percent compared with the six-month period to end-December 2005. Each message can go to thousands or hundreds of thousands of consumers, according to the bi-annual Internet Security Threat Report from security software vendor Symantec. "Organized crime is here and they are very interested in phishing. They target home users who have become the weakest link," said research scientist Ollie Whitehouse. Another trend in the first half of the year is that phishers have become more sophisticated, dodging spam filters and other defense mechanisms designed by service providers and software companies to keep out the criminals.

Report: [http://eval.veritas.com/mktginfo/enterprise/white\\_papers/ent-whitepaper\\_symantec\\_internet\\_security\\_threat\\_report\\_x\\_09\\_2006.en-us.pdf](http://eval.veritas.com/mktginfo/enterprise/white_papers/ent-whitepaper_symantec_internet_security_threat_report_x_09_2006.en-us.pdf)

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/25/AR2006092500007.html>

9. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Promontory raises deposit coverage limit.** Banks that are members of the Promontory Interfinancial Network will soon be able to offer their individual and corporate customers up to \$30 million in federal deposit insurance on their accounts, up from the \$25 million available since early this year. Promontory operates a certificate of deposit placement service that lets member banks swap funds so large deposits can qualify for full Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) coverage. FDIC insurance currently covers up to \$100,000 of the money in a bank deposit account, although earlier this year Congress approved an increase to \$250,000 for some retirement accounts. In the past, consumers with more money were forced to stash it in several institutions to stay within coverage limits. Meanwhile, governments, nonprofit organizations and companies with strict investment rules either had to do the same or find banks willing to back their deposits with collateral.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/24/AR2006092400767.html>

10. *September 18, IDG News Service* — **Spammers making money from free Web-host services.** Spammers have found a way to mine free Web-hosting services for cash. Online scammers have long used free hosting services as a way to get around e-mail filters that might otherwise recognize their "spammy" Websites. Enterprising spammers have now begun selling one another these free Web pages, according to security vendor McAfee Inc. For \$25 per week, a spammer will sell 50 Web-hosting accounts that can be used to redirect Web traffic to sites that normally would be flagged. "These 'link providers' create and maintain thousands of free hosting accounts on behalf of the spammers," wrote McAfee's Nick Kelly in a recent posting to

McAfee's AVERT Labs blog.

Source: [http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime\\_hacking&articleId=9003411&taxonomyId=82](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime_hacking&articleId=9003411&taxonomyId=82)

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

11. *September 25, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA announces refinements to security measures.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced on Monday, September 25, it is adjusting its total ban on liquids, gels, and aerosols effective Tuesday, September 26. There are two significant changes: Travelers will be allowed to carry travel-size toiletries (three ounce or less) that fit comfortably in one quart-size, clear plastic, zip-top bag through security checkpoints. Travelers may also bring items, including beverages, purchased in the secure, boarding area on-board the aircraft. “After the initial, total ban, we have learned enough from the UK investigation to say with confidence that small, travel size liquids are safe to bring through security checkpoints in limited numbers,” said Assistant Secretary for TSA Kip Hawley. “We have also taken additional security measures throughout the airport that make us comfortable allowing passengers to bring beverages and other items purchased in the secure area onboard.” TSA will be enhancing security measures throughout the airport environment, both visible and not visible to the traveling public. Examples of these measures include: more random screening of employees, additional canine patrols, stronger air cargo security measures, more rigorous identity verification standards and deploying more trained security officers in bomb appraisal, and screening by observation techniques.

Video clips of the new procedures and Assistant Secretary Hawley’s statement:

[http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/kip\\_q&a\\_09252006.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/kip_q&a_09252006.shtm)

Source: [http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2006/press\\_release\\_09252006.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2006/press_release_09252006.shtm)

12. *September 25, USA TODAY* — **TSA to lower Registered Traveler fee.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is backing off its plan to require travelers who want a fast trip through airport security to pay nearly \$200 a year. The move comes days after representatives of companies seeking contracts to manage special security lines made their case for lower fees to TSA chief Kip Hawley. The companies said a \$200 annual charge could deter millions of people and some airports from signing up for the Registered Traveler program, which could begin in several airports this year. In response, the TSA lowered to \$30 from \$100 the fee it plans to charge each person it approves to use Registered Traveler security lines. Travelers would pay an additional \$80 or so a year to companies that enroll them, produce fingerprint-embedded ID cards and manage the lines at airports. The total annual cost is now estimated at about \$110. It could be \$20 higher if the TSA requires a criminal background check in addition to the terrorism assessment it now plans for each Registered Traveler applicant.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-09-24-traveler-program\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-09-24-traveler-program_x.htm)

13. *September 25, Associated Press* — **Immigration workforce dilemma.** A dilemma confronts the nation's immigration workforce, one that goes far beyond sealing borders to would-be terrorists, drug smugglers, and undocumented migrants, one that is particularly unsettling in a post-September 11 world. How do you secure the homeland if some of those guarding the



gates are dishonest? Example: On the California border, at least nine immigration officers have been arrested or sentenced on corruption-related charges in the past 12 months. One of those convicted of smuggling in illegal immigrants turned out to be an illegal immigrant himself, who had used a fake birth certificate to get hired by the Border Patrol. More than 600 criminal probes have been launched this fiscal year of immigration employees nationwide, according to internal affairs investigators at the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Complaints range from smuggling, bribery, extortion, and fraud to sexual misconduct, assault, and theft of government property. The accused, past and present, manned border crossings, highway checkpoints, and airports. Others sat behind desks in places like Orange County, CA, and Fairfax, VA, charged with taking bribes to provide naturalization papers or work permits to ineligible applicants.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-09-24-border-security\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-09-24-border-security_x.htm)

14. *September 25, Associated Press* — **British Airways flew with three engines.** A British Airways 747 flew from Los Angeles to Britain despite having to shut down one engine, which failed and belched flame shortly after takeoff, a published report said Monday, September 25. The February 20, incident was previously analyzed in detail by Britain's Air Accidents Investigation Branch, which found no fault with the crew's decision to fly but recommended that British Airways crews receive further training in managing fuel while flying with three engines. Shortly after the flight took off with 352 passengers and a crew of 18, the crew reported hearing a banging sound, and traffic controllers and passengers reported seeing flames. After completing checks, the crew shut down the No. 2 engine, and consulted with British Airways officials. When the flight reached the east coast of the United States there were no further abnormalities and the crew decided to carry on across the Atlantic. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration had proposed fining British Airways \$25,000 for flying an aircraft which wasn't airworthy, but dropped the proposed enforcement action last month. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch noted that since 2001, British Airways had recorded 15 incidents in which a 747 had continued flying after an engine had been shut down.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060925/britain\\_747\\_fire.html?.v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060925/britain_747_fire.html?.v=1)

15. *September 25, Canadian Press* — **British Columbia border guards returning after safety threat.** The backlog has been cleared at four British Columbia border crossings after about 60 border officers walked off the job. Motorists were left with long lineups and short fuses Sunday afternoon, September 24, when the unarmed guards left their posts south of Vancouver and in the Fraser Valley. Faith St. John with the Canada Border Services Agency says the officers exercised their right to refuse work after getting a report that an armed murder suspect may be headed their way. The Conservative government has promised a 10-year program to arm the guards, with a small percentage getting trained in about a year and a half.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=229730a1-3c56-4fda-ba1e-24cc53a9b4d6&k=31967>

16. *September 25, Associated Press* — **Expert: Airport errors not systemic.** Experts who study airplane accidents say the errors that lead to crashes are similar to the common mistakes people make in their everyday lives, akin to locking keys in the car or forgetting an item on a grocery list. "In an airplane, it gets you in trouble," said Scott Shappell, a professor at Clemson University who studies aviation accidents and the human errors that cause them. Shappell believes investigators will ultimately conclude that the errors that contributed to the crash of

Comair Flight 5191 in Lexington are not systemic, but rather local, particular to that flight and that morning, he said. The jetliner crashed after trying to take off from the wrong runway at Blue Grass Airport. Scholars said as many as 80 percent of airplane accidents are caused by human error. An entire field of study is devoted to human factors in aviation. The discipline embraces not only how a cockpit is run but also how mechanical repairs are made. Its practitioners want to prevent mistakes, knowing, however, that mistakes are inevitable.

Source: <http://news.kypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060925/NEWS01/609250365/1014/NEWS02>

17. *September 25, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS awards grants to secure the nation's critical infrastructure.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Monday, September 25, that grants are being distributed to ports, transit, and intercity bus systems to strengthen the nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. These awards are part of the Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP), which are comprised of seven programs that constitute major critical infrastructure sectors. Monday's announcement provides awards to three competitive grant programs: the Port Security Grant Program; the Transit Security Grant Program; and the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program. The infrastructure protection grants considered threat, vulnerability, and consequences, and recognized the unique characteristics of the nation's seaports, transit systems, and other critical infrastructure assets.

2006 Infrastructure Protection Program:

[http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interweb/assetlibrary/FY2006IPP\\_PressKit092506Final.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interweb/assetlibrary/FY2006IPP_PressKit092506Final.pdf)

Source: [http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press\\_release/press\\_release\\_1008.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_1008.xml)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *September 22, DM News* — **USPS signs new contracts with airlines.** The U.S Postal Service (USPS) has signed five-year air cargo service agreements with seven airlines that will take effect on September 30. The carriers that will participate in the contract are Dallas-based American Airlines Inc.; Houston-based Continental Airlines Inc.; Tempe, AZ-based US Airways Inc.; Forest Hills, NY-based JetBlue Airways; Oak Creek, WI-based Midwest Airlines; Indianapolis-based ATA Airlines Inc.; and Mendota Heights, MN-based Sun Country Airlines. The value of the contract for the seven airlines is approximately \$225 million for USPS's 2007 fiscal year, which begins October 1, according to the USPS. The carriers will move First-Class Mail, Express Mail, some Priority Mail. The previous contract with the USPS, executed in 2003, narrowed the number of carriers from 50 to 13 and instituted stringent requirements for the on-time delivery of mail by contracted carriers. The requirements were designed to increase efficiency and improve service. For example, the airlines are now required to scan mail at four key points.

Source: <http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm-news/direct-mail/38342.html>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

**19. *September 25, Agricultural Research Service* — Online toolkit for soybean studies.**

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists at Ames, IA, recently launched "The Soybean Breeder's Toolbox," an online database that allows exploration of the soybean's genetic makeup through easily retrieved information. According to ARS computational biologist Rex Nelson, who helped design the toolbox, this database offers easier remote access to information, as well as the use of complex queries to retrieve sets of related data. The new site makes it possible to compare current soybean genetic maps and will allow study of maps from other legume species when they become available, according to Nelson. In The Soybean Breeder's Toolbox, there is information about molecular markers on genetic maps, diseases and insects that attack soybean plants, and many other topics. Also included are data associated with soybean quantitative traits such as the resistance of different soybean genotypes to stresses that include bacterial, fungal and insect attacks and drought and flooding.

SoyBase: <http://soybase.org/>

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

**20. *September 23, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — Avian influenza tests complete on mallard ducks in Pennsylvania.**

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior Saturday, September 23, announced final test results, which confirm that low pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus was found in samples collected last month from wild mallard ducks in Pennsylvania. This subtype has been detected several times in wild birds in North America and poses no risk to human health. The USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the presence of the "North American strain" of low pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza through virus isolation in one of the 15 samples collected from the wild mallards in Crawford County, PA. Initial screening results announced on September 2 indicated that an H5N1 avian influenza subtype was present in the collected samples, but further testing was necessary to confirm pathogenicity. As previously announced, genetic testing ruled out the possibility that the samples carried the specific highly pathogenic strain of H5N1 avian influenza that is circulating overseas.

Source: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2006/09/0375.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2006/09/0375.xml)

**21. *September 22, Stop Soybean Rust News* — Soybean rust found in Louisiana.** Soybean rust was found in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, bringing that state's count to 15 positive parishes. According to Louisiana commentary, Asian soybean rust was found in Vermilion Parish for the first time. Rust was detected in a commercial soybean field. The incidence and severity levels are moderate at this point.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=961>

**22. *September 22, Stop Soybean Rust News* — South Carolina finds soybean rust in two commercial fields.** The discovery of Asian soybean rust in two commercial fields in Aiken County, SC, brings that state's total to 15 and the U.S. total to 68 counties positive for rust this year. The two fields are located approximately one and 1.5 miles east of the town of Monetta, SC. Aiken County is in west-central South Carolina, on the border with Georgia and among a large grouping of positive South Carolina counties and adjacent to one positive Georgia county (Burke). South Carolina now has 15 counties — a third of the counties in the state — positive for rust: Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Barnwell, Calhoun, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester,



Edgefield, Florence, Hampton, Horry, Lee, Orangeburg and Sumter.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=962>

23. *September 22, Farmers Guardian* — **Rapid test for foot-and-mouth disease.** A rapid test for foot-and-mouth disease could be used for future outbreaks in the United Kingdom (UK), government scientists indicated this week. The Institute for Animal Health (IAH) is trialing a diagnostic test that will deliver an on-the-spot result in under an hour, without having to wait for results from a laboratory. The test still needs to be assessed by veterinary surgeons working with cattle herds, including further laboratory assessment leading up to validation. Even then there is still no certainty the test will be used in the UK as the IAH admitted it may have difficulty persuading companies to turn it into a commercially viable product.

Source: [http://www.farmersguardian.com/story.asp?sectioncode=1&story\\_code=4600](http://www.farmersguardian.com/story.asp?sectioncode=1&story_code=4600)

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## **Food Sector**

24. *September 22, USAGNet* — **Hong Kong approves U.S. beef plants.** Hong Kong has lifted bans on beef imports from three U.S. processing plants, according to Meat and Livestock Australia. In 2003, the U.S. lost its position as Asia's largest beef supplier after the U.S. reported its first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and several countries, including Hong Kong, closed their markets to U.S. beef. The approved beef plants are owned by Cargill Meat Solutions, Harris Ranch Beef Co., and Swift and Co. Earlier this year, Hong Kong withdrew its approval of these plants after bone fragments were found in beef shipments from these plants. Under the new approval, only beef from cattle slaughtered on or after August 18, 2006. Four additional U.S. beef plants were also approved by Hong Kong authorities to export to the market. The four additional plants are operated by Schrieber Processing Corp., Skylark Meats, Smithfield Beef Group, and Tyson Fresh Meats. Under the approval rules, only beef from cattle slaughtered on or after August 28 will be accepted. A total of 22 U.S. plants can now export beef to Hong Kong.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1933&yr=2006>

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## **Water Sector**

25. *September 25, Mail & Guardian (South Africa)* — **Vandals disrupt water supply in South Africa.** The Tshwane, South Africa, Metro Council has dispatched metro police to guard and protect city water engineers working on restoring water supply in Mamelodi and parts of Eersterust, east of Pretoria. South African Broadcasting Corporation news reported that the area had been without water for almost a week following acts of vandalism on the main water reservoirs control system. The councillor in charge of public works, Subesh Pillay, said the first attempt to fix the water supply was jeopardized by angry residents who attacked municipal workers.

Source: [http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=284923&area=/breaking\\_news/breaking\\_news\\_national/](http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=284923&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_national/)

26. *September 25, Reuters* — **High radiation found in Yukon town drinking water.** Residents of small native Indian community in Canada's Yukon territory have been ordered to stop drinking water from their wells after officials discovered high radiation levels. Officials were analyzing the results of tests on water in small community of Champagne, but said on Friday, September 22, that high levels of radiation had been found in seven of 12 wells in the community, whose residents are members of the Champagne–Aishihik First Nations. The radiation is likely coming from naturally occurring uranium in the soil.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-09-25T130117Z\\_01\\_COL546830\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-HIGH-RADIATION.xml&archived=False](http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-09-25T130117Z_01_COL546830_RTRUKOC_0_US-HIGH-RADIATION.xml&archived=False)

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## **Public Health Sector**

27. *September 25, All Headline News* — **Indonesia records 51st bird flu fatality.** On Sunday, September 24, an official from the Indonesian health ministry's bird flu information center revealed another death in the country tied to bird flu. Taking Indonesia's death toll from the bird flu to 51, a nine-year-old boy has died from the disease. Runizar Ruesin, the head of the center confirmed the death of the boy who died on Friday, September 22, at a hospital in Jakarta. He apparently came in contact with a sick bird — the common cause of death for most human cases.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7004967748>

28. *September 24, Agence France–Presse* — **Malaysia reports new cases of hand, foot and mouth disease.** Malaysia's eastern Sarawak state, fighting an outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease, has reported 19 new cases with nine of the victims hospitalized, a report said. Deputy Chief Minister George Chan said three children had been hospitalized in each of the towns of Marudi and Miri, two in Kapit and one in Sibü. The epidemic has hit Sarawak in two waves this year and claimed 13 lives. The virus, which causes mouth and throat ulcers and fever and blisters on the hands and feet, has infected 14,392 children in Sarawak since an initial outbreak at the end of January and a second round in early May.

Hand, foot and mouth disease information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/enterovirus/hfhf.htm>

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060924/hl\\_afp/malaysiahealthdisease\\_060924095647;\\_ylt=AtZhApzLvNIzciTf0Z4pWt2JOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060924/hl_afp/malaysiahealthdisease_060924095647;_ylt=AtZhApzLvNIzciTf0Z4pWt2JOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

29. *September 24, Agence France–Presse* — **French hospitals face antibiotic-resistant bacteria.** Several hospitals around Paris are facing an upsurge of the antibiotic-resistant bacteria Vancomycin–Resistant Enterococcus (VRE), France's General Health Board said. A total of 313 people have been infected with VRE in the last two years and the bacteria could have been a factor in at least three deaths, the organization said. Specialists fear that the bacteria could boost the resistance of another germ, staphylococcus aureus, as has been the case in hospitals in the U.S. Vancomycin is a powerful antibiotic that is generally only used as a last resort against bacteria that are already resistant to penicillin and other antibiotics.

VRE information: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_vre.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_vre.html)

Staphylococcus aureus information:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub\\_staphylococcus.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_staphylococcus.htm)

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060925/hl\\_afp/francehealth\\_060925023124](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060925/hl_afp/francehealth_060925023124)

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## **Government Sector**

30. *September 25, Associated Press* — **Hazard–warning radios provided to public schools.** The government plans to supply hazard–warning radios to all 97,000 public schools in the United States. The National Weather Service, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), operates more than 950 short–range radio stations and has encouraged schools, businesses, and homeowners to buy warning radios that are activated with a broadcast signal that automatically turns a radio on and announces a potential hazard. The Department of Homeland Security will provide \$5 million to make sure these radios are in every public school, NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher said. Originally conceived as a means to deliver weather warnings, the system now covers all hazards — for example, terrorism, abducted children, and derailed trains carrying toxic materials.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/EDUCATION/09/25/schools.warnings.ap/>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

31. *September 24, South Bend Tribune (IN)* — **Drill tests communications, emergency response in Indiana.** Marshall County, IN's, first responders worked their way through a mock disaster drill Saturday morning, September 23, in Centennial Park to play out a scenario designed to test their communications and knowledge of the National Incident Management System. Volunteers served as victims in the mock drill, which saw a helicopter crash in the middle of the Marshall County Blueberry Festival's primary vendor area. The crash occurred after a passenger had dumped "anthrax" over the crowd. "The scene command setup still needs a lot of work," said Clyde Avery, Marshall County Emergency Management Agency director. "With responders coming from all over, including state and federal, we need to establish a unified command earlier." Few responders said they heard information concerning the threat, and then confirmation, of the anthrax attack. "There's no communications plan," John Grolich, Marshall County coroner, said in response to complaints that different groups had used different emergency radio channels, and none was able to hear all agencies during the drill. "We need one."

Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060924/News01/609240325/-1/NEWS01>

32. *September 23, Press–Register (AL)* — **Katrina lessons, challenges discussed at conference.** Offering lessons from Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana's head of emergency preparedness asked his colleagues around the country on Friday, September 22, if they are truly prepared for a large–scale catastrophe. Retired National Guard Col. Jeff Smith, acting director of the

Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said destruction on the scale of Katrina would overwhelm most states' plans and pose unforeseen problems. "Stop and think for a minute about what is your Achilles heel," Smith said. "It may not be a hurricane. It may be an earthquake. It may be a dam. It may be something else." Smith spoke Friday on the final day of a weeklong conference of the National Emergency Management Association. Other speakers Friday morning emphasized cooperation and self-reliance, saying state and local officials should expect federal assistance, but that shouldn't take the place of their own planning and citizen preparation.

Source: <http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/news/1159003231197600.xml&coll=3>

33. *September 22, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disaster for Virginia.** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the Commonwealth of Virginia to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding, including severe storms and flooding associated with Tropical Depression Ernesto during the period of August 29 to September 7, 2006.

For further detail: <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=7105>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=30198>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

34. *September 25, IDG News Service* — **Symantec: 'There is no safe browser'.** According to Symantec's twice-yearly Internet Security Threat Report, hackers found 47 bugs in Mozilla's open-source browsers and 38 bugs in Internet Explorer (IE) during the first six months of this year. That's up significantly from the 17 Mozilla and 25 IE bugs found in the previous six months. While Internet Explorer remained the most popular choice of attackers, no one is invulnerable. According to the report, 31 percent of attacks during the period targeted more than one browser, and 20 percent took aim at Mozilla's Firefox. "There is no safe browser," said Vincent Weafer, senior director with Symantec Security Response. "If you've got a browser, make sure you're configuring it correctly," he added. "That's a far better strategy than running some browser just because you haven't heard of it." Browser bugs are also relatively easy to find and exploit, said Marc Maiffret, chief technology officer with eEye Digital Security. "Everyone has realized that targeting the applications on the desktop is a better way to break into businesses and consumers and steal things than server flaws," he said.

Symantec's report: [http://eval.veritas.com/mktginfo/enterprise/white\\_papers/ent-whitepaper\\_symantec\\_internet\\_security\\_threat\\_report\\_x\\_09\\_2006.en-us.pdf](http://eval.veritas.com/mktginfo/enterprise/white_papers/ent-whitepaper_symantec_internet_security_threat_report_x_09_2006.en-us.pdf)

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/09/25/HNbrowserbugssurge\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/09/25/HNbrowserbugssurge_1.html)

35. *September 25, VNUNet* — **Golf sites fall into malware sand trap.** The amount of malware on golf-related Websites increased dramatically in the run up to the Ryder Cup competition, according to a Web security firm. ScanSafe said that the popularity of Team USA and Tiger Woods had made them an attractive target for malware authors. According to ScanSafe, nearly 30 percent of searches with terms such as 'Tiger Woods' and 'Tom Lehman' yielded some kind of malware, including spyware, adware and Trojans. However, similar searches conducted

using the names of European Ryder Cup players produced virtually no malware results.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2164892/golf-sites-fall-malware-sand>

36. *September 25, Sophos* — **Spreading Stration worm pretends to be security patch.** Sophos has announced the discovery of a new version of the Stration worm spreading via e-mail systems. The W32/Stratio-AN worm has been aggressively distributed by its author since the early hours of Monday morning, September 25. It spreads via e-mail using a variety of disguises, including one which ironically poses as a warning that the recipient's computer has been determined to be infected by a worm. Sophos experts believe that the worm is using the guise of a worm warning to play on concern about the unpatched Vector Markup Language vulnerability in Microsoft's software.

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/09/stration-worm.html>

37. *September 22, ZDNet News (UK)* — **Activists unveil stealth browser.** Hacktivismo, a group of human-rights advocates and computer security experts, has released a Firefox-based browser designed to allow anonymous Web surfing. The Web browser, called "Torpark," is a modified version of Portable Firefox. It can be run directly from a USB drive, meaning it can be used on public terminals in cybercafes. It creates an encrypted connection to the Onion Router network, which supplies a succession of different IP addresses. "Torpark causes the IP address seen by the Website to change every few minutes, to frustrate eavesdropping and mask the requesting source," Hacktivismo said in a statement. Developers said the browser is different from other anonymous browsers, such as Anonymizer or SecretSurfer, in that it doesn't cost anything and is small and portable.

Source: [http://news.zdnet.com/2100-9588\\_22-6118547.html](http://news.zdnet.com/2100-9588_22-6118547.html)

## Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 57715 (---), 4672 (eMule), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 65530 (WindowsMite), 38973 (---), 60778 (---), 135 (epmap)
Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center	
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at <a href="mailto:soc@us-cert.gov">soc@us-cert.gov</a> or visit their Website: <a href="http://www.us-cert.gov">www.us-cert.gov</a> .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <a href="https://www.it-isac.org/">https://www.it-isac.org/</a> .	

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## Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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## General Sector



Nothing to report.

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